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exposition of his main thesis are the most important portions of his book. Less novel are the pages devoted to the beginnings of the administrative system and less convincing in that they seem to show a more orderly scheme of colonial control than the various experiments of the period would warrant us in accepting. Management of the colonies in the years before 1660 was little more than an attempt to find a way without adequate chart or compass and, as compared with the comprehensive system gradually called into existence after 1660, was casual and almost haphazard. I differ very unwillingly from a writer who has made this field so peculiarly his own, but I am unable to believe that the attitude of the early Stuarts toward Virginia and Massachusetts was actuated by any lofty plan of imperial unity. The motives seem to me to have been essentially political and religious and not colonial in the true sense of that word. Similarly, I am unable to believe in the greatness of Cromwell as the founder of a colonial system. Circumstances demanded an extension of the power and authority of the Commonwealth and thereby created an apparent tendency toward centralization in the various parts of the British dominions, but it certainly was not accompanied by any adequate scheme of colonial organization. I cannot believe that either Cromwell or the early Stuarts conceived of a colonial empire in anything like the later sense of that term. Differences of opinion may be nothing more than differences as to the motives of those who were the ruling powers in England. As Mr. Beer himself says, "the time was not ripe for the establishment of a comprehensive and symmetrical system of colonial control". The age before 1655 was still religious and men were not thinking "colonially". But they were working out more or less unconsciously some of the essential principles that were to find embodiment in the well-developed colonial policy of the more modern age that followed. This fact Mr. Beer demonstrates with absolute conclusiveness.

CHARLES M. ANDREWS.

A History of Modern Liberty. By JAMES MACKINNON. Volume III. *The Struggle with the Stuarts, 1603-1647*. (London and New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1908. Pp. xviii, 501.)

THE monumental work of Professor Mackinnon makes rapid progress in spite of its bulk. Not only has he completed the third volume, but his preface tells us that the fourth is already in manuscript. The plan of his task now appears fully developed. It is, in itself, interesting, for it is proposed, practically, to rewrite certain selected portions of history most identified with the development of political liberty, from that standpoint. In pursuance of this idea volume I., on the Middle Ages, and volume II., on the Reformation, have already appeared. Volume IV. will conclude the struggle with the Stuarts, volume V. will treat of

the revolutionary movements of the eighteenth century, especially in America and France, volume VI. will be devoted to the French Revolution from 1789 to 1804, and the two concluding volumes will discuss the Revolutionary and Emancipation movements in the nineteenth century. It is an ambitious and an inspiring task which Professor Mackinnon has set himself. One cannot but admire the energy required to fill eight stout volumes such as these. Unquestionably such a work is worth doing. But whether it is worth doing on quite such a scale, to attain its highest usefulness, may perhaps seem doubtful to some. No one can, of course, pretend to know at first hand so many and such different fields as are here covered, so that with all the ability, the goodwill and the energy in the world a single author must, of necessity, depend largely on the work of others. And there is no doubt that the world contains relatively few persons even among scholars or disciples of liberty who will read this work, compared with the public it would have if it were expressed in one or two volumes. Such a conclusion is one that inevitably suggests itself at the outset and does not grow fainter with reading. None the less the present volume, if one lays aside the feeling that so much of it has been said before, contains a considerable amount of good reading, some interesting information and points of view more or less new. In particular, it gathers up in one place very conveniently much that is expressed in many other scattered works. The author has had the great advantage of Professor Gardiner's investigations to guide him through the tangled politics of the period. But he has evidently looked into the sources on his own account, especially those directly related to his particular subject. Covering a well-worn field he approaches it from a different direction than that of the purely political historian, and often contributes if not greatly to the knowledge at least to the understanding of some movements elsewhere more lightly dwelt on. Though naturally a strong champion of Parliament he is, in general, fair-minded with respect to their adversaries, and not blind to their faults, as his estimate of Pym shows. And his opinion of the Solemn League and Covenant is unusually judicial. He has a bibliographical scheme of his own, growing, no doubt, from the character of his work. He puts at the end of each chapter a list of authorities upon which it is based, these being in some cases evaluated. Useful in itself and peculiarly suited to his purpose, this gives no clue to his authority for individual statements of fact or opinion. It would be impossible in any brief space to enumerate those with which one might, for one reason or another, differ. In a sense it would scarcely be worth while, in that few of them affect the value of a history of liberty. However much they might be questioned were the book a history of political events, they are in the main on matters little affecting the progress of liberal ideas. One notes with some surprise, however, that the index contains no reference either to the Diggers or the Levellers, nor so far as has been found, any notice of one of the most useful and inter-

esting studies on this subject, Borgeaud's *Rise of the Democratic Spirit in England and America*. One notes also rather less than might be expected of that sturdy nonconformist John Lilburne, however much one may agree that "on the whole I . . . am glad he is in the history of England, but think he was an ass." On the contrary we must be grateful for the long and interesting account of Scottish thought and action in this period, which to those of us inclined to consider England too exclusively, will prove the most valuable and suggestive part of the book.

Ireland under the Stuarts and during the Interregnum. In two volumes. By RICHARD BAGWELL, M.A. Volume I., 1603-1642. Volume II., 1642-1660. (London and New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1909. Pp. xv, 370; xii, 388.)

IN 1885 appeared the first two volumes of Mr. Bagwell's *Ireland under the Tudors*, which was completed by the publication of the third volume in 1890. The present work begins with the accession of James I. and ends with the Restoration. Within two years a historian of England has written that "there is no general history of Ireland in the seventeenth century adequate at once in scale and research." So far as the period thus far covered by Mr. Bagwell is concerned, that reproach has been wiped out. If, as we hope, he is able to complete his work through the Stuart period as he plans, it will be removed altogether. Since he began his investigations into the history of Ireland a large proportion of the material used in these volumes has found its way into print. The *Calendars of State Papers, Ireland*, has been completed down to and including 1669. Grosart's edition of the *Lismore Papers*, and Mrs. Townshend's *Life and Letters of the Great Earl of Cork*, Miss Hickson's *Ireland in the Seventeenth Century*, chiefly consisting of the depositions and documents relating to the rebellion of 1641, together with books like Lord Fitzmaurice's life of Sir William Petty, and the valuable contributions of writers like the late Mr. Falkiner, have done much to provide material for such a study. In addition to these Mr. Bagwell has, of course, consulted the mass of material previously printed, and much still remaining in manuscript. It is peculiarly unfortunate in such a work as this that he, like Professor Gardiner, has been denied access to the Strafford Papers in Lord Fitzwilliam's hands. They would perhaps have added something to his admirable account of that statesman's activities in Ireland. His bibliography, one observes also, does not note the work of Continental scholars in his field, like that of Bonn, who in his *Englische Kolonisation in Irland* has contributed a good deal to the understanding of the subject. Nor has he regarded much the wider aspects of the case, the corresponding movement in America, or the detailed course of English affairs save as they directly concerned specific Irishmen or Irish events. He has stuck very close to his text.